



# Town of North Andover Quarterly Newsletter

APRIL 2008 Issue 7

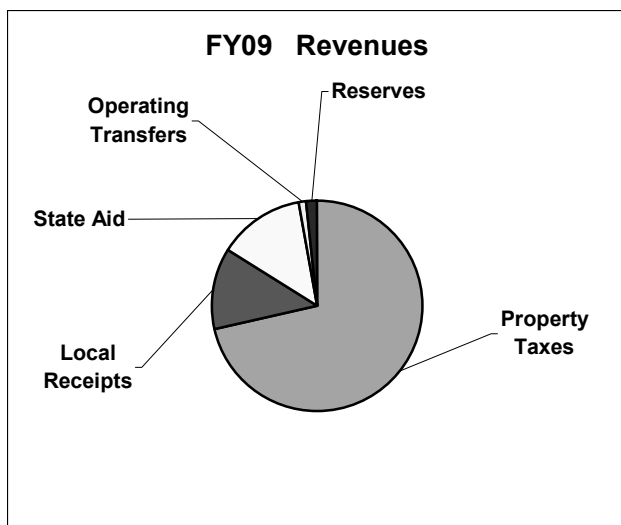
## News from the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager

On May 13, 2008 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the North Andover High School, Charles Salisbury, our town moderator, will gavel in the 2008 Annual Town Meeting. This meeting, which is open to any registered voter in North Andover, will make important decisions impacting the future of our community and our individual lives. Votes will be taken on adopting the town's operating and capital budgets, approving and changing the laws we govern ourselves under and consideration of possible changes to land use regulations. Most town boards including the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Finance Committee, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Conservation Commission and individual officials such as the Town Moderator and the Town Clerk have been working for months in preparation for this meeting so that those in attendance can be made aware of the many issues brought forward at town meeting and you can make educated de-

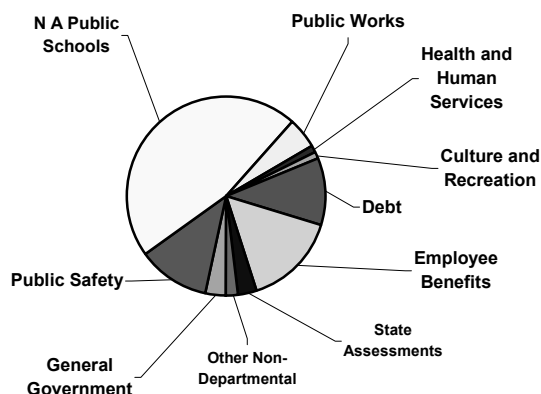
cisions. At this upcoming town meeting some of the major decisions that will be made include the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 operating budget (see graphs below) and funding for a new police station and pre-school facility.

Please go the town's website [www.townofnorthandover.com](http://www.townofnorthandover.com) for updates and additional information regarding your annual town meeting.

**FY09 Revenues**



**FY09 Town Manager Recommended Expenditures**



Thank you to all of you who completed the survey that was included in our last newsletter. We received over 1,300 responses. Results of the survey can be found on the town's website or you can contact the town manager's office at 978-688-9510 and we will send you a copy. Your input will be very important as we go continue our discussions with the U.S. Postal Service on ways we can improve postal service in North Andover.

## News from the School Department – Dr. V. James Marini, Superintendent of Schools

I am pleased to inform you that Dr. Carla Scuzzarella has been appointed permanent principal of North Andover High School. Last September, she accepted the position of Interim Principal when Mrs. Nicholson moved to her new position in Andover. During the time that Dr. Scuzzarella has been in North Andover, she has consistently demonstrated her excellent leadership and strong interpersonal skills. She effectively led the school through the NEASC accreditation process, established the Academic Standards Review Committee, and is working toward the development of a new schedule for the school that will provide students with greater opportunities for course selection.

Dr. Scuzzarella is an outstanding educator who has the skills, experience, values and energy needed to lead an excellent school like North Andover High School.

Last October the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) conducted its accreditation visit at North Andover High School. Generally, high schools undergo an accreditation process every ten years. The process includes a thorough review of all aspects of a high school, from academic programs to community support. The high school received the visiting team's re-

port which Dr. Scuzzarella presented to the School Committee on March 6. The report is a public document and is available at the public library.

The North Andover Middle School has been invited to participate in the Women in Science and Engineering program offered by UMass Lowell with the administrative assistance of the Merrimack Education Center. This program is an effort to interest middle school girls in mathematics and the sciences through a full day of hands-on and interactive workshop activities. The workshop facilitators are women scientists and engineers from the region's industries, research institutes, and science organizations. The presenters will provide successful female role models to the workshop participants.

During the week of March 3rd, the elementary schools celebrated Read Across America Week. At each school, community members volunteered their time to attend school assemblies and read aloud in every classroom. This was a wonderful opportunity to bring community members together with school children to share a common experience through reading.

## News from the Stevens Estate

Not everyone in town realizes North Andover operates a great function facility at Osgood Hill off Osgood Street not far from the High School. The Stevens Estate at Osgood Hill is a 165 acre property bought by the Town to save it from a 67-house development back in 1995. There are miles of trails open to the public, some leading down to Lake Cochichewick. The historic stately Stevens mansion was built in 1886; in its time, the most elegant residence in town. It retains lovely period detail and



can be rented for weddings, family reunions, corporate retreats and parties, bar and bat mitzvahs, showers and more. Overnight stays are an option. The grounds include a swimming pool for summer barbecues and a large tent for bigger functions.

A Board of Trustees operates the Estate as an enterprise fund, which means all operating expenses come from rental fees. It does take a fair amount of money to maintain. The Main house is currently undergoing an extensive program of painting and refurbishing, and the Board plans to hold a town-wide open house later in the spring when all has been completed. Call Kim at 978-682-7072 for more information about booking an event at the Stevens Estate. Town residents will receive a discounted rental rate.

## News from the Police Department

### Crime Prevention Information

Thieves who break into parked motor vehicles have a new favorite item to steal – Portable GPS devices. People leave them attached to the windshields in parked vehicles so they act like a beacon to thieves. Criminals who once had to stroll between parked cars to look for items to steal now only have to drive through the lot to identify their targets. Valuable items like phones, laptops, cameras, iPods and their accessories should not be left in plain view in unattended vehicles. We also recommend that you not wait until you park the car to gather these items and put them in the trunk in the event you are being observed by the thief.

Some people have become crime victims when they leave their cars unlocked even in their own driveways. Several arrests have been

made of people who roam around at night checking for unlocked vehicles. When they find one they ransack it looking for loose change and anything else they could get their hands on. Simply locking the car resists this type of crime.

Consider having your valuables engraved with your driver license number (not your social security number!) or at least record the brand, model and serial number of your valuable items, it aids in recovery. Many thieves are opportunists and take advantage of people who allow themselves to be easy targets. Please lock your car, take your keys and keep valuables out of easy view.

Remember, if you see anything suspicious, please call the Police Department right away!!!!

## News from the Town Clerk's Office

As we head into spring and summer months it is time to think of vacation and travel plans. The Town Clerk's Office is a Passport Issuance Agency right here in Town Hall at 120 Main Street. We process passports from 9:00AM until 4:00PM Monday through Friday.

Passport regulations changed of February 1, 2008. The new fee for passports are \$75.00 for ages 16 and older and \$60.00 for children under 16. There is an agency fee of \$25.00 for each passport. New passport forms are available in the Town Clerk's Office. You may also be able to renew an existing passport yourself. The U.S. Department of State website at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) allows you to fill out forms on line and has all current information for passport requirements. You may fill out the forms on line, print them and sign in person. You will need 2 passport pictures, proof of citizenship (prior passports for adults over 16 or long form birth certificates if you have never had a passport or for children under 16, and a valid form of

photo identification such as a driver's license. For minors without valid identification can have parents sign and identify.

New requirement – For all children under 16 both parents must be present at the time of application. If both parents are not able to appear in person, a notarized statement (Form DS-3053) – Statement of Consent or Special Circumstances: Issuance of a Passport to a minor under Age 16 can be used.

A check or money order is needed for the U.S. Department of State. The agency fee is payable to the Town of North Andover and can either be a check, money order or cash. We cannot accept credit or debit cards. The current processing time is 6 weeks for passports. For an additional fee of \$60 passport applications can be expedited and are normally processed in three weeks. If you have emergency travel needs or have any questions, please call our office at (978)688-9502 and we can get you specific information.

## News from the Fire Department

The North Andover Fire Dept has been working with L.W. Bills Co. of Georgetown Mass. to install a state of the art Radio Fire Alarm Box system throughout the community. The system operates on a low-band radio frequency with low power output. The new equipment, which was funded through the Capital Improvement Plan, will replace a wire-based system which is nearly 100 years old and subject to frequent, costly maintenance. The equipment was manufactured by Signal Communications of Woburn Mass. and is capable of monitoring both the new radio boxes as well as the older, wire type boxes. The system is both Factory Mutual and National Fire Protection Association

approved. Radio boxes have been installed in the Old Center area due to the reconstruction project and future removal of all overhead wires and utility poles. Newly constructed businesses will also be installing this modern technology. The plan is to convert from wired to radio master boxes over a period of five years.

Pictured here is a "Vision 21" receiver. There are 3 of these units in town - one at each fire station and one at Central Dispatch in the Police Station.

